

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 1, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

~~ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY DEVICE FOR THE HAEMOSTATIC
INSERTION AND RECOVERY OF A PLUG AT THE SURGICAL SITE~~

Please amend page 1, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[DESCRIPTION]

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

- - FIELD OF THE INVENTION - -

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates generally to [the field of] surgical instruments [intended for use mainly, but not exclusively, for endoscopic surgery (laparoscopy, thoracoscopy etc.), including hand-assisted laparoscopy. More specifically the invention relates] and, more particularly, to [a] devices for [the insertion and the recovery of a plug at the surgical site which can be used during] surgery performed by endoscopic procedure and the like.

Please amend page 1, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

- - **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION** - -

[Background of the Invention]

In endoscopic surgery, for instance, [a] minimally invasive access to a cavity of the body, such as the abdominal cavity, is performed through the use of miniaturized optical and surgical instruments. In the case[, for example,] of the laparoscopic surgery, [wherein] which involves the peritoneal cavity [is involved], this cavity is virtual [under physiological conditions] in the mind of the surgeon and cannot be explored by optical instruments. In order to [make] give it [real] more substance, its wall is raised by insufflating gas, generally CO₂, to form a gas chamber, known as pneumoperitoneum. Access to the pneumoperitoneal chamber is [established by means of] accomplished using trocars fitted with a valve, so that communication between the interior and exterior of the abdomen takes place without a significant variation of the actual gas pressure. The surgical instruments are then inserted through the trocars and the optics connected externally to a TV camera [connected] and, in turn, to a monitor, [in this way] thereby forming a take and image transmission system.

Please amend page 2, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[US patent no. 5,310,407 discloses] In one arrangement, an instrument is provided for [the] insertion of a haemostatic plug in to the abdominal cavity [in] during a

laparoscopic procedure. Such instrument is formed by a tubular element [wherein] for receiving a plug of haemostatic material [is placed] and a sliding plunger for applying the plug directly where bleeding has occurred.

Please amend page 3, first fully paragraph, to read as follows:

-- OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

[Object and summary of the Invention]

[The] Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention [is] to provide a device for [the] remov[al]ing [of] organic fluids from a body cavity during a[n endoscopic operation] ~~capable of overcoming the various drawbacks discussed above~~ medical procedure so as to overcome inefficiencies and delays attendant aspiration of such fluids, avoid the inefficient, laborious and hazardous nature of inserting absorbent plugs using a forceps, and eliminate the risk of oversight associated with removing such plugs during the procedure.

Please insert the following new paragraph before the first full paragraph on page 4 as follows.

- - Still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments. - -

Please amend page 4, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

- - **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** - -

[Brief description of the drawings]

[Further features and advantages of the endoscopic surgery] A specific, illustrative device, according to the present invention, [will be made clearer by the following description of one of its embodiments, given by way of a non-limiting example] is described below with reference to the [accompanying] following drawings, [wherein] in which:

Please amend page 4, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 1 is a partial perspective view of [the] a device, according to one aspect of the present invention, [some parts of it being removed for clarity of illustration];

Please amend page 4, third full paragraph, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the device [of] shown in [Figure] FIG. 1;

Please amend page 4, fourth full paragraph, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 3 is a detail[ed] view of the device illustrated in FIG. 1
showing the end portion of the plunger; and

Please amend page 4, fifth full paragraph, to read as follows:

[- Figures] FIGS. 4a[, 4b and] - 4c illustrate [the] steps [of] for recovery of
the plug [with] using the device [of Figure] shown in FIG. 1.

Please add the following new paragraph after the fifth full paragraph on page 4:

- - The same numerals are used throughout the drawing figures to designate similar
elements. Still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become
apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments. - -

Please amend page 4, sixth full paragraph, to read as follows:

- - DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS - -

Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to [Figures] FIGS. 1 and 2,
there is shown generally a specific, illustrative, surgical device, in accordance with
various aspects of the present invention. According to one embodiment, shown generally

in FIG. 1, the device comprises [denotes] a relatively rigid tubular sheath with open distal and proximal ends[, indicated at] 1a and 1b, respectively. [The] A proximal portion of the [tubular] sheath [1] is engaged firmly [in] with a hub 2 [provided with] having a handle [means] such as in the form of two diametrically oppos[ite]sing annular grips 3a, 3b generally co[-]planar to the sheath [1].

Please amend page 7, third full paragraph, to read as follows:

Various modifications and alterationss to the present invention may be appreciated based on a review of th[e]is disclosure. These changes and additions are intended to be within the scope and spirit of the invention as defined by the following claims.